

## TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

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## SILVER'S HARD ROAD

It is not pleasant to contemplate what might have been the fate of the mining industry of the West were there no Pittman act in existence. Foreign silver yesterday touched 59 3/4 cents, and we may be assured that the white metal could not be produced at any such figure. The present price of \$1 very materially assists in the mining of the other metals. If the London price governed, conditions would be much worse, says the Leadville, Colorado, Herald-Democrat.

It is passing strange how facts have so persistently mocked at prophecy. Silver, we were told—without much basis in fact, it must be admitted—would remain at \$1.50 an ounce. It happened, however, that exactly the same thing took place in the case of silver as occurred in the case of other commodities, such as sugar. When the price rose the nations began to unload. France sold her silver, and the same is true of all the other European countries. If trade languishes, as it assuredly is in numerous portions of the world, the demand for silver is automatically curtailed. That is what the prophets of high silver prices did not take into consideration when the quotations were rocketing.

The fact is, the world is practically bankrupt. France, which was supposed to be recovering so rapidly, it now appears, is at the end of her financial string, and even the possibility of getting some German reparation money does not appear to have created any buoyancy. What once were the central empires are hopelessly involved in financial difficulties, and the present state of the silver market is merely one of the reflections of prevailing conditions.

These was considerable criticism indulged in by anti-British agitators in this country over the sale of the hoarded silver in the United States treasury in order to sustain the credit of England in India during the war. As matters have turned out it has inured to the benefit of the silver miners. The sole reason for the Pittman act was to provide for the replenishing of the depleted silver reserves. Had there been no depletion, due to the United States sending the silver to India, there would have been no Pittman act and the silver miner would have been at the mercy of the world market.

The silver situation is deplorable enough, but with the warm blanket of the Pittman act to protect the American miner from the blast, there is satisfaction similar to that experienced while sitting by the fire as the blizzard rages outside.

Thus far no concerted movement has been made to attempt a repeal of the act, although sooner or later some watchdog of economy may thrust the matter on the attention of congress.

The rehabilitation of silver can only come with the rehabilitation of the business of the world, that has not improved since the armistice.

That, we fear, is due partly to the false or mistaken prophets, who counted too optimistically on the world being able to pull itself up by the bootstraps. It would appear as if the Versailles treaty, while bringing official peace, had done nothing to restore economic conditions or even to start them on the way to recovery. Curiously enough, the world is not "rebuilding." The million and a quarter able-bodied men out of work in England, and the three million in the United States is evidence enough that the machinery of industry has become disabled. Devastated France should be a fruitful field for the rebuilding program to be carried out, but we read that laborers in that region are being discharged by the thousands for lack of funds, and that families are preparing to abandon the devastated zone and become refugees once more.

When it is fully realized that the great war has left the world poor, some of the present troubles can be better understood. Poor nations, like poor people, cannot make great headway.

## COMMERCIAL CLUBS

(Gila Valley Farmer)

There are two kinds of towns in this country that are drifting, and getting no place, that are really entitled to sympathy. One is the town that could support a live Commercial Club but won't, and the other is the town that has a Commercial Club but won't help it to live.

Residents of Safford know enough about the inside workings of a live, snappy, progressive organization of business and professional men in other towns to know what could be accomplished here. They don't have to be told that for natural resources, for a place in which to live and rear a family, no other community in the country offers better advantages than this. Yet the average citizen is apt to content himself with leaving it to the other fellow to place these facts before the outside world. The newspaper tries to do its share, and it speaks a good word for the people and community every week. But it must be backed up by local business men and have the hearty co-operation of all citizens to make its boost for the town successful.

Any man knows two horses can pull more than one. Then why shouldn't 20 men accomplish more, when pulling in the same direction, than a half dozen. And why should the majority be content to let the town stand still because a few are willing to let it drag along? The argument is all in favor of a live Commercial Club, one in which every citizen takes an individual interest and lends a helping hand.

## Firing Up

SEALE NOT GUILTY  
SAYS JURY.

Just three and one-half hours after they retired to deliberate on the case, the jury at 3:30 this afternoon returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of the State vs. J. B. Seale, charged with attempt to commit murder by shooting R. K. Lewis, at McNeal, one year ago.

Closing arguments of attorneys for the defense and state were completed at the morning session of court, Judge Lockwood charging the jury who retired to deliberate at noon. Following lunch the jury locked themselves in the jury quarters at the court house and at 4:30 asked the bailiffs for pen and ink.

## Feared Hung Jury.

From the time consumed in deliberating it had been feared that there would be a hung jury, but when the foreman made the request for the writing material everyone knew a verdict had been reached and spectators, mostly witnesses and relatives of the defendant, looking around in the outer corridor, made a rush for the court room.

## Lewis Present.

The complaining witness R. K. Lewis, who has occupied a place in the court room since the trial started Tuesday morning, sat up stolidly and pale in his stretcher and when the verdict of not guilty was announced did not move. The defendant met the jury at the outer court rail and shook hands with each juror as well as relatives and his attorney, J. T. Kingsbury. Lewis' wife came up and conversed with him briefly while Seale, his wife and brother, left the court room together.

## Brief History.

The case has been a hard-fought one, Seale having been charged with shooting Lewis with intent to kill. They testified that they shot Lewis, but only in self defense. Four bullets took effect in Lewis' back, caused, Lewis testified, while he was running to escape from Lewis and his brother. The Seale brothers testified the bullets struck Lewis in the back because his horse wheeled when the shooting took place. Evidence tending to show that Lewis had a bad reputation was introduced by the defense. The state tended to prove that Lewis was unarmed when the shooting took place and that he was trying to escape when he was shot.

## Shooting Year Ago.

The shooting is alleged to have occurred on the 19th of February last year, just one day less than one year from the time that the jury returned its verdict freeing Seale. At the time the shooting occurred it created much interest about the county, since Lewis had been selected as one of the jury panel in the famous Wootton deportation trial, which no trial in the Superior court here. The shooting of Lewis lessened the selection of the panel of jurors for the trial, which at best was a slow process.

His paralyzed condition resulting from one of the bullet wounds received in his spine was the cause of the delay in trial, it is said.

Another case pending against Frank Seale, brother of J. B. Seale, charged also with attempt to kill in connection with the Lewis shooting is set for trial at the present court term.

This afternoon the trial of D. E. Richardson vs. R. H. Ellis, et al, a suit for quiet title to cattle near Wilcox is on trial and will probably go to the jury by evening recess.

PHOENIX PLANS ROYAL  
WELCOME FOR SHRINERS

PHOENIX, Feb. 15—Planned as the biggest, snappiest and most elaborate series of events of their kind ever held in the southwest, with something doing every minute for the hundreds of members that will attend from every corner of the state and a punch concealed somewhere in ever activity, the dedication of the new El Zarihah temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Phoenix, on Tuesday, February 22, the great initiatory work to follow it, the parade that will be held that evening, and the grand ball that will bring the festivities to a close on the evening of February 23, are being looked forward to as the greatest event of the season.

County Expenditures Increase Reasonable, Says  
Rae; Roads, Schools Caused Biggest Gain in 9 Yrs;  
Courts and Health Costs Less Since Prohibition

DOUGLAS, Feb. 18.—Considering the growth of the county, the increased cost of operating expenses due to higher wages, cost of materials, etc., and the many public improvements, such as new roads and school buildings, the cost of maintaining the government of Cochise county has been remarkably evenly balanced, during the past 9 years, Robert Rae, president of the Bank of Commerce, pointed out to members of the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon club at the Gadsden yesterday noon. Mr. Rae based his assertions on a comparative table of expenditures, tax receipts and assessed valuations for the years 1910, 1915 and 1919, which he compiled and had made up in book form to be distributed among the luncheon club members.

Road and School Expenditures  
Heaviest.

That the greatest portion of the increased expenditures during the past nine years went for road construction and school maintenance, and that the cost per capita for maintaining the health department and the courts had decreased appreciably since prohibition went into effect in Arizona, were some of the most salient facts brought out by the speaker in his explanation of his compilation of figures. In touching upon road construction, which the speaker showed by his comparative statement, increased from \$35,414.57 in 1910 to \$235,917.95 in 1919. Mr. Rae remarked that he had traveled in practically every county in the state and found the highways and roads of Cochise far superior to any in Arizona.

## Wages and Supplies Increase.

Col. H. H. Stout, chairman of the luncheon club and superintendent of the Copper Queen smelter, supplemented Mr. Rae's statement by a comparison of cost of maintenance of the smelter from 1912 to 1919. Since 1912, he said, wages had increased 53 per cent, and the price of supplies 106 per cent, which, while probably slightly higher than the increase in labor and materials used in county administration, gave some explanation for the increased cost of county government maintenance.

Taking up the table in order, Mr. Rae went through the various items, explaining, when possible, the reason for the increase or decrease of expenditure or taxation. His first table dealt with the classified comparative statement of income of the county for the three periods. From 1910 to 1919 there was a decrease of approximately 4 per cent in the amount of money received from assessed valuation, while there was an increase of 10 per cent in state aid during this same period. Due to prohibition, the income of the state was reduced from 11.20 per cent on fee collections in

1910 to 1.14 per cent in 1919. This, of course, was due to the loss of revenue from saloon licenses and taxes. It was only natural, the speaker pointed out, that the income from interest on the county funds deposited in banks should increase from \$553.18 in 1910 to \$18,821.07 in 1919 on account of having more money on hand.

## Health Department Costs Decrease

The speaker then took up his next table, which dealt with the expenditure of the county's income during the same period. The cost of running the supervisors, recorder's and treasurer's offices increased from \$22,440.30 to \$48,382.38, but in 1919 the total expenditure percentage for these departments decreased about 1 per cent over 1910 because of the increased collections from them. Where the greatest portion of the county's money was shown in the table of educational expenditures, which increased from \$222,297 in 1910 to \$318,860 in 1919. Election costs were about the same. The health department expenditures decreased about 10 per cent, and this in spite of the fact that the epidemic of influenza occurred during the latter year. The cost of running the courts showed a decrease of more than 10 per cent during this period, despite the added expenditures for the deportation trials. Both of these decreases, the health and the judicial departments, probably were due to prohibition, the speaker said. Approximately \$197,573 more was spent on road construction in 1919 than in the year 1910, the table showed, which did not take into consideration the amount of federal or state aid.

## Mining Property Assessments.

The next table dealt with the assessed valuation of mining property in the county for the same periods. The 1910 assessment showed that the total assessed valuation of mining property was \$7,601,557.93 compared with \$124,649,972 in 1919, but this did not take into consideration the bullion tax abolished after the former year. Agricultural and stock raising assessments jumped from a million and a half to more than eight million and a half in nine years. Transportation assessed valuation showed a big increase, as did public utilities and miscellaneous property, which includes automobiles and public improvements.

## Cost Per Capita

Table number five dealt with the percentage of expenditures per capita. Education showed the biggest increase, jumping from \$6.43 per capita in 1910 to \$17.62 in 1919. Road construction increased \$4 per capita. The total operating expense per capita increased approximately \$15 in the nine-year period. The increase in population was 15 per cent.

The means of arriving at the cost of school maintenance was taken up

from a different angle, using attendance as a basis. In discussing this table, Mr. Rae paused to say that there had been a great deal said about increased production during the last few years and pointed out that, while the population of Cochise county had increased 15 per cent, school attendance had increased 50 per cent.

"I believe Cochise county takes the prize for increased production in some articles," he said, amid laughter.

## Irrigated Lands Increase.

No figures were available for 1919 on the cost per pupil, but from 1915 to 1919 it increased about \$15, due to the construction of many more schools and the added cost of materials, supplies and salaries. The average cost per pupil on all educational expenses was \$26.41 more than in 1910, the only figures available for that year.

The next table dealt with unit statistics of assessed valuation in the county, showing the increased number of acres of irrigated lands and non-productive and productive mines was considerable, with corresponding increase assessed valuation per unit. The miles of railroads, telephone lines, number of automobiles, motor cycles, cattle, etc., also show big increases. The speaker paused to comment upon the number of sheep there were in the county during 1919, which the table showed, was 13,336.

"And I thought all of the time that I was eating goat," he said.

The last table showed where the \$27,906.33 mentioned in a previous table under the head of new construction, was spent. These items included construction of the Lowell public market, county library, child welfare, emergencies, repairs to county hospital, improvements on court house and the construction of the Bisbee jail.

Every member of the luncheon club present yesterday received a copy of Mr. Rae's book, which probably is the most complete compilation of its kind in existence, and entailed the expenditure of much time.

10 YEARS GIVEN  
EX-SOLDIER FOR  
AUTO ROBBERY

DOUGLAS, Feb. 18.—Military authorities at Camp Harry J. Jones said yesterday that another former soldier who had been stationed at the post here, has been given a 10-year sentence as the result of trial by court-martial. The sentence was imposed on Charles P. Piebanek, formerly of H troop, First cavalry.

Piebanek, it is alleged, after having deserted the army service, "borrowed" a ride of a man driving between Gila Bend and Tucson, and, while riding with the latter, shot at the man who gave him a lift and stole the car.

Piebanek goes to the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth.